
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2007

NIDA Contacts: **Dorie Hightower or**
 Sara Rosario Wilson
 301-443-6245

Contacto en Español: **301-594-6145**

*****NEWS ADVISORY*****

Pain, Opioids, and Addiction: An Urgent Problem for Doctors and Patients

Meeting is first at NIH to bring together clinicians and researchers on the issue of opioid addiction and pain treatment.

For the first time, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health, will bring together the research and clinical practice communities to draw attention to the growing problem of prescription opioid misuse by patients with chronic, nonmalignant pain conditions. Currently, the most powerful treatments available for most forms of pain are opioids. However, opioid treatment can produce negative health consequences, such as intoxication, impairment and physical dependence, and may result in opioid abuse and addiction. The goal of this two-day meeting is to inform researchers and practitioners about the state of the science of the intersection of addiction and pain management. The meeting is co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and the NIH Pain Consortium.

WHAT: Pain, Opioids, and Addiction: An Urgent Problem for Doctors and Patients

WHEN: Monday, March 5, 2007
 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

 Tuesday, March 6, 2007
 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Natcher Conference Center
 National Institutes of Health
 9000 Rockville Pike
 Bethesda, MD 20892

WHO: Featured Speakers

Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director, NIH
Dr. Nora D. Volkow, Director, NIDA

A full agenda and speaker list is available at: <http://conferences.masimax.com/opioid/index.cfm>

#####

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to ensure the rapid dissemination of research information and its implementation in policy and practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at <http://www.drugabuse.gov>.